



## Bythinia tentaculata

### Mud Bithynia, faucet snail

#### General

1. Shell is usually no larger than 12 — 15 mm

#### Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Europe from Scandinavia to Greece
2. Habitats
  - Freshwater ponds, shallow lakes, and canals
  - Found on gravel, sand, clay, mud, undersides of rocks in fall and winter; aquatic macrophytes in warmer months
  - Mostly lives in shoals, but found up to depths of 5m
  - pH 6.6—8.4, conductivity 87—2320  $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{++}$  of 5—89 ppm, and  $\text{Na}^+$  of 4—291 ppm
  - Grazes on algae on substrate and filters suspended algae from water column
  - Potentially serves as a biomonitor of contaminants such as Cd, Zn, and MeHg within its tissue concentrations vs. environmental concentrations



Photo: USGS  
<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=987>

#### Invasion Pathways

1. Introduced via packing material carried on ships
2. Solid ballast in timber ships
3. Deliberate release by amateur naturalists

#### Sources

1. <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=987>